

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTS
(DIRECT PURCHASE ORDERS TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS)**

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Exposure Research Laboratory
Ecological Exposure Research Division, Cincinnati, OH**

The Ecological Exposure Research Division (EERD), Cincinnati, OH, of the National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is seeking a student or recent graduate (received degree within the last 24 months) with a B.S. or equivalent degree in Biology, or a related sub-discipline such as Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Environmental Sciences, Zoology or Botany, to provide services under a contractual agreement in support of research projects focusing on invasion biology. The preferred student will possess skills/experience in specific molecular biology laboratory work, such as DNA extraction and PCR chemistry; also general laboratory practices, including health and safety.

The Genetics Research Group of the Molecular Ecology Research Branch, EERD, is responsible for developing genetics-based indicators of ecological condition and to characterize exposure and impacts of different environmental stressors. Invasive species is a biological stressor that the Genetics Research Group is beginning to characterize through several independent projects. For additional information regarding EERD, visit its home page at <http://www.epa.gov/nerl/eerd>.

The student contractor will assist the mentor in performing tasks involved with molecular genetic data organization and collection. Tasks include, but are not limited to: (1) tissue and sample collection and organization; (2) DNA extractions; (3) PCR amplification and purification; (4) Genotyping; (5) DNA sequencing; (6) analysis of genotype and DNA sequence data; and (5) other general laboratory and field duties necessary to carry out research (i.e., buffer and sample preparation, routine equipment maintenance, record-keeping of these activities in lab notebooks and electronic formats). All necessary instructions and training will be provided by Dr. Michael Blum, who will also serve as the student mentor.

This work is to begin on or about March 1, 2004. It is anticipated that the student will work 20 hours per week with the majority of work being Monday through Friday of each week between the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The initial contract will be one year with an option for 12 additional months. The duty location is Ecological Exposure Research Division, NERL, 26 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268. Work will be performed under a variety of settings including office, laboratory, and field. The work is not particularly hazardous or physically strenuous; field and laboratory health and safety training will be provided.

The hourly rate for this position is \$13.70. Student contractors will be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked and do not receive overtime premium. Student contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State, Local, and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; student contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Student contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. Offerors must be (1) recently graduated (no more than 24 months ago) with a B.S. or equivalent degree or (2) students in good standing who are currently enrolled in a post baccalaureate degree program at a recognized educational institution. Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

To apply for this position, you must provide a one or two page resume or statement of qualifications including (1) student's full legal name; (2) mailing address; (3) telephone number; (4) email address (if any); (5) date of birth; (6) Social Security Number; (7) place of birth; (8) citizenship or, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status; (9) education, including description of relevant classes; (10) work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field; and (11) laboratory work experience (if applicable to these services). Attach a copy of your most recent transcript, listing courses taken, grades, and overall GPA. Send your resume or statement of qualifications to: Ms. Linda Ransick, Program Operations Staff, NERL-CI, 26 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268-1587; email ransick.linda@epa.gov; or fax (513) 569-7424. The applications/resume submission deadline will be listed at the website listed below.

Prior to applying for this position, you should visit the EPA procurement home page at http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/ to learn the full details of the position for which you are applying. Under the section entitled "Student Services U4RD16, RFQ-RT-04-00148", read all of the attached documents. You should visit the website periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any amendments (changes to the requirement of the posted position) have been issued. If you have any questions on the information contained on this website, contact Rebecca Clausen at clausen.rebecca@epa.gov.

The Government will make contract awards based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services as described in the Announcement. Please check the evaluation factors document on the website mentioned in the previous paragraph. Students who perform under contract for EPA are required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Michael Blum, the EPA mentor for this position, at blum.mike@epa.gov.